

Letter of Samuel Jones to his father Johnathan Jones, dated at Pickwaket,
June 13th, 1770

I am submitting this letter as a tribute to honor Samuel Jones, my 5th great grandfather on my mother's side. He was born in Falmouth, Maine and died at sea during the Revolutionary War. This is the only letter my family has from him, from a time when he went to serve an apprenticeship in Conway, New Hampshire.

"Pickwaket" is the original name of Fryeburg, Maine. I have here copied his exact spelling and punctuation errors as closely as I could.

Sarah Marshall, 2004

*To John^a. Jones, Esqr,
Falmouth*

Pickwaket, Jun y^e 13th, 1770 -

Hon^d. Sir:

Thefe are to Inform you how I reach'd Pickwaket about 6 o'Clock laft night & thot now to write you while I can - I am well & lodg'd at y^e houfe of Cap^t. Timothy Walker, a fine houfe of good style with 4 Glafs windos on fome 40 Acres & to day by him & Col^o. Fry y^e Prop^r was fhown y^e improvmnts here - s^d town lyes on y^e Sawco upper courfe nigh upon New Hampfhire, tho I cam here by way of Pondycherry a new plantation like Pickwaket upon y^e Fronteer in y^e countey of York with none elfe untill a place far to y^e North wher is a camp for biling Suger - Many head of cattle are pastur'd here for y^e grafs is fit for hay & ~~men may citch~~ also ther are many Deer & Bair which men cam firft to trap for & citch furs - one a man nam'd Keyfer I faw with a brace of frefh beavers fo large as feem'd Dogs.

On Monday y^e 11th inst. I was at Pondycherry afores^d a fmall place beyond y^e Sabago wher one M^r. Kimball keeps a fine Storhoufe, tho Col^o. Fry spoke not highly of him for as he fays he fold a cag of Rum to y^e indians, with them he trades freely to y^e Cols Difspleasur - Says ther are not fo plenty here as in former time but fome few live to Eaftrd of y^e town & of late com down from Cannada by which y^e fettlment is much delay'd for fear of them - Pickwaket is an indian word for y^e grate village that was here befor Capt. Lovell cam - Col^o. Fry fhowd me y^e fpot at Sawco pond wher was y^e Fight & y^e mens names graven in y^e trees - I faw no indians but heard Mr^r. Walker tell of one a Christian Squah nam'd Moll who laft Spring heald her finger which was cut, & another Tom who is fhe fays always much in Liquir - Cap^t. Walker

has a good mill here & alfo ther is one build at Pondycherry kept by a man call'd Stephens, tho as yet is only a few mill fo y^e Cap^t. told me, fo that many ther are oblig'd to fend theyr Grist to him.

- Alfo here a Smith carrys out grate trade in mending, fhoeing horfes &c. which I found necefsary at my arrival, my horfe having thrown a fhoe from y^e rough travail.

Pickwaket is y^e largeft fettlment at this place, on a brod Plain with much good land run out in 7 lots by Col^b. Fry himfelf & Others, but adjoyning are clearings S. Wefterly at Cap^t. Browns & Eaftwrd at Pondycherry which y^e Col. did afsist in running y^e Bounderys - That of Cap^t. Brown lyes fo clos as to feem a part of Pickwaket but s^d Pondycherry is a days travel as I found it by horfe - y^e road thence is a wild confufion & I could not have croft y^e Sawco but for Col. Fry nephew maintains a crofing ther for which I was oblig'd to paye him 2:d fare - Here alfo ther are many fmall hills, as Pine & Starks hill fo call'd & Eaft lyes a long Mountain ye which is now call'd Pleafant but as was formerly Amuchikadjo as I heard it s^d by Col^b. Fry who has climb^d it, y^e which is another Savage word - But that Pondycherry is fo call'd for his paft friend an Officer at Fort Acady, & is not an indian word but French as I think it - Ther are not many at s^d town as yet but a very few men ther to raise theyr Corn & Suger: ~~they fuffer much without they~~ (as here) have no Meetinghoufe and fuffer much for want of the Gofpel, but to Pickwaket minifters do com by Grace to preach on certan ocafions - I heard tell of one Rev^d. Coffin of Narrackanfet who has been here & fays he will com again, for whom many wait.

I hope foon to be among friends & will write more from Conway which I expect to reach it on Friday, at which place I am fet to work for M^r. G as you kno I remain Sir,

*Y^r. Faithful Son
Sam^l. Jones*